



## **Area State Parks—May 2015 Adventures, Events & Activities**

From sites rich in cultural history to the scenic beaches of the north coast, parks in the Santa Cruz District invite the visitor to explore and enjoy. The district stretches from the sand dunes of Sunset State Beach near Watsonville up the coast to Montara State Beach north of Half Moon Bay and inland to Castle Rock State Park near the town of Saratoga.

*Join CA State Parks in starting up the summer season this Memorial Day Weekend!*

### **Big Basin Redwoods State Park**

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 at 21600 Big Basin Way.  
(831) 338-8883

*A Special Event!*

### **“The Tramp and the Roughrider” Saturday, May 16 at 2 pm**

Mountain Parks Foundation, in cooperation with California State Parks, invites you to a living history presentation featuring Lee Stetson as John Muir, and Alan Sutterfield as President Teddy Roosevelt. This one time performance recreates the 1903 meeting of President Theodore Roosevelt and naturalist John Muir and their many adventures in the early American wilderness, which would eventually lead to the protection of 200 million acres of forest. Each of these characters is feisty and opinionated, spawning both tension and humor on issues such as hunting, animal rights and forest management. Held at the Campfire Center. Seating is free, but space is limited. Parking is \$10. A donation to Mountain Parks Foundation is requested.

*A Special Event!*

### **Mother’s Day Walk: Women of Big Basin Sunday, May 10 at 1 pm**

Celebrate Mother’s Day in the park by honoring the spirited women who lived in, worked in and fought for the Basin throughout its history. Living history reenactments bring you back in time where you will meet pioneer homemaker Alice Maddock; Josephine McCrackin, the “Savior of the Redwoods” and Harriet “Petey” Weaver, the first female Ranger. Interpreter Susan Blake portrays these inspiring women on this 0.5 mile, 2 hour guided walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters. Event is free. Day use parking fee is \$10. More information is available at (831) 338-8883.

### **Redwood Loop Walk**

**Every Saturday and Sunday at 11 am and 2 pm (only at 11 am on Sunday, May 10)  
Monday, May 25 at 11 am and 2 pm**

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative guided 0.5 mile stroll through a magnificent old growth

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redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this 90 minute walk. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at Headquarters.

### **Campfire Programs**

**Saturday, May 23 at 7 pm**

**Sunday, May 24 at 7 pm**

Join us in our historic campfire center for an evening of song and story. Serenade the glittering stars and learn about redwood ecology, creatures of the forest or stories of the park while relaxing in the shadows of the towering trees. Fire lighting and marshmallow roasting (we provide the marshmallows and sticks!) starts at 7:00 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Good dogs welcome! Meet at the Campfire Center.

### **Special Guest Campfire**

**A Visit with Pioneer Alice Maddock**

**Saturday, May 30 at 7 pm**

What was life like 125 years ago in Big Basin? Come meet Alice Maddock, a pioneering homesteader who lived here with her family in the late 1800s. What did they eat and how did they get it? What happened if they got sick? Hear Alice tell of life with her husband Tom and their seven children. Marshmallow roasting from 7 pm to 7:30 pm (marshmallows and sticks provided!). Campfire program from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Good dogs welcome! Meet at the Campfire Center.

### **Junior Rangers**

**Saturday, May 23 at 3 pm**

**Sunday, May 24 at 3 pm**

**Monday, May 25 at 11 am**

**Saturday, May 30 at 3 pm**

**Sunday, May 31 at 11 am**

Discover the fascinating secrets of the forest! Explore, practice outdoor skills and play games as you learn about plants, animals, geology, and more. This 1 hour program is for kids ages 7 to 12. Sorry parents, this program is for kids only! Please register your child at the Nature Lodge 15 minutes before the program begins. Please be sure your child is dressed for active play in the outdoors.

### **Big Basin Nature Club**

**Saturday, May 23 at 4:30 pm**

**Sunday, May 24 at 4:30 pm**

**Monday, May 25 at 10 am**

**Saturday, May 30 at 4:30 pm**

**Sunday, May 31 at 10 am**

This fun program is for children ages 3 to 6 and their families. Pretend, play, sing and explore! This 30 minute program will introduce youngsters to the wonders of the redwood forest. Meet at the Nature Lodge.

### **Coffee Talk**

**Saturday, May 2 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Saturday, May 23 from 9 am to Noon**

**Monday, May 25 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate! This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. A Big Basin Docent will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail. And bring the kids for a fun craft activity!

**Family Discovery Walk****Saturday, May 2 at 1 pm****Sunday, May 24 at 1 pm**

Join Docent Norm Beeson for a fun filled family walk and investigate the mysteries and wonders of Big Basin's redwood forest! We'll discover what surprises the day offers on this easy, 1 mile roundtrip walk that lasts about 1.5 hours. Bring water, a snack and an adventurous spirit! Meet at Park Headquarters.

**The Road Less Traveled—A Dog-Friendly Walk****Saturday, May 2 at 11:30 am****Sunday, May 10 at 9:30 am****Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 am****Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 am****Monday, May 25 at 10 am****Saturday, May 30 at 11:30 am****Sunday, May 31 at 9:30 am**

On this dog, wheelchair, stroller, and family friendly walk, we travel on North Escape Road, a paved road closed to traffic. We tour stunning old growth redwood groves along beautiful Opal Creek. We will discuss redwood ecology and park history while exploring the deep shade of the redwood forest. This is a fun, easy, 3 mile, 2 hour roundtrip walk. Dogs not required, but welcome! Bring water and meet at Park Headquarters.

**Sense-O-Rama!****Sunday, May 3 at 1 pm**

This an easy, 1 hour ramble with Docent Maura McNamara where you will tune into the more subtle sights, sounds, smells, and even taste of Big Basin! Come and enhance your experience of the forest. Open your senses! Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Discover Big Basin Redwoods Hike!****Sunday, May 3 at Noon****Saturday, May 9 at Noon****Sunday, May 10 at Noon****Sunday, May 17 at Noon****Saturday, May 23 at Noon****Monday, May 25 at Noon****Sunday, May 31 at Noon**

Explore some of the park's less travelled backcountry with Docent Barry Grimm. This hike will be individually tailored to your group, so distance can vary from 2 to 8 miles, depending on your needs. The pace is always moderate, with occasional short stops to discover the park's unique animals, plants and other natural features. Based on group size, experience level and weather conditions, we will choose from the many trails that explore the park's most scenic areas. Dress

in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring sturdy walking shoes, water and trail snacks. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Volunteer with the Trail Crew**

**Saturday, May 9 at 9 am**

Since 1969 the Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew has helped make it possible for others to safely enjoy the beauty of our park. The Trail Crew meets the second Saturday of each month, rain or shine. A typical workday lasts until mid-afternoon. Please bring your own work gloves, lunch and water. Join us for a unique perspective of Big Basin, a lively and productive experience with others who share a love of these redwood forests, and the satisfaction of participating in a vital part of the park's ability to educate and inspire the public! Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Berry Creek Falls Hike**

**Sunday, May 10 at 9:30 am**

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin with docent Bill Rhoades as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 7 hour, 11 mile loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin, 65 foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Wildflower Walk!**

**Saturday, May 16 at 10 am**

**Sunday, May 17 at 10 am**

On this guided walk learn to identify many of Big Basin's flowering plants. This is a slow paced walk with time to discover and identify plants, flowers and animals in the park, and allow for photography if you choose. You'll also visit several historical spots within the park. Saturday's walk is a leisurely 4 mile, 5 hour stroll that includes two chimney trees and a waterfall. Sunday's walk is a relaxed 5 mile, 5.5 hour amble that includes a chimney tree. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Here Comes the Sun!**

**Saturday, May 23 from 11 am to 1 pm**

Come to the Campfire Center and look through a solar telescope at the Sun. You'll see sunspots, solar prominences and other features of our closest star as you learn about the parts of the Sun and how it shines. There will be Sun-related activities for the kids. Conducted by Steve Widmark of the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club.

### **Hike the Last Chance Trail**

**Sunday, May 24 at 10 am**

Join Docent Steve Stolper as we hike the mysterious Last Chance Trail. We follow the East Waddell Creek as it meanders through a deep forested canyon that leads us to a relaxing lunch spent on the sunny rock overlooking the cascades. This 4.4 mile, 4 hour, out and back is a moderate hike with 300 feet elevation gain. But we cross a stream that requires hikers to rock-hop. Bring at least one liter of water, lunch, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Snakes Alive!**

**Saturday, May 30 from 12 pm to 3 pm**

Why are snakes important to us? How do they see, smell, taste, and hear? What and how do they eat? What does a snake feel like? Come to the Old Lodge, across the street from the Nature Lodge/Museum, and meet Docent Diane Shaw and learn about the fascinating world of snakes. Snake crafts for the kids too!

### **Hike to Buzzard's Roost**

**Sunday, May 31 at 10 am**

Develop your hiking muscles with this challenging 5 mile, 4 hour round trip to Buzzard's Roost. Join Docent Steve Stolper for a hike to a dramatic rock formation with a commanding view of the park. We gain 1,200 feet in elevation on the way up. After a relaxed lunch on the rocks, we return to headquarters. Bring at least one liter of water, lunch, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation

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## **Wilder Ranch State Park**

Located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 (831) 426-0505

May hours: 8 am to sunset

### **Every Picture Tells a Story at Wilder Ranch State Park**

**Saturday, May 9 from 11 am to 3 pm**

Artistically tell your story about Wilder Ranch! The public is invited to participate in an art day event to experience Wilder Ranch. Make it a day of family fun and tell your story of Wilder Ranch by painting, coloring, sketching or photographing the nature, farm animals or historic buildings. Local artists will be stationed at different points of interest around the cultural preserve to offer demonstrations, techniques and advice to participants. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own art materials or they can use basic art supplies provided by the ranch, donations accepted. Participants may opt to enter their finished story picture into the **"Every Picture Tells a Story" at Wilder Ranch State Park Art Show, to be held at Wilder Ranch's Life on the Ranch Day on Saturday, August 8.** Event is free; parking \$10. Gift shop and food items available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and Wilder Ranch. Call 831.426.0505 for more information.

### **History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area**

**Saturday, May 23 at 9 am**

This challenging guided 3 hour hike will explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet at the Wilder Ranch parking lot. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water. Rain cancels.

### **Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks**

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California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>



**Saturday, May 2 at 11 am**  
**Saturday, May 9 at 11 am**  
**Saturday, May 16 at 11 am**  
**Saturday, May 30 at 11 am**

On these 2 hour natural history excursions you will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet docent at the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow. Rain cancels.

### **Wilder Ranch Living History Demonstrations and Ranch Tours**

**Weekends from 11 am to 3 pm**

#### **Tour of the ranch houses at 1 pm**

Visit an early day dairy ranch and step back in time to the late 1800's at Wilder Ranch State Park. Weekends at 1 p.m., join the 1 hour tour of the 1897 Victorian home, 1896 water-powered machine shop, and other historic buildings. You can also play Victorian games or bring a picnic to enjoy on the front lawn, visit the farm animals and see what activities are taking place on the ranch this weekend; You may learn about hand quilting, watch blacksmithing, or wood stove baking techniques. Call (831) 426-0505 for more details.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

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### **Año Nuevo State Park**

Located off Highway 1 between Pescadero and Santa Cruz, CA (650) 879-2025

#### **Año Nuevo on the Rocks: Coastal Geology Walk**

**Saturday, May 2 at 1pm**

Join geologist Liz Colvard for this 0.6 mile, 1 hour exploration of the park's coastal geology. The sands and cliffs of Año Nuevo State Park's Cove Beach tell a tale of an ever changing planet. Earthquakes and erosion, landslides and littoral drift all constantly carve up the California coast, producing the dramatic vistas and iconic features we know and love, while they last!. Rain cancels. For more information call (650)879-2025

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Coastside State Parks Association. Visit us on the web at [www.coastsidestateparks.org](http://www.coastsidestateparks.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov/anonuevo](http://www.parks.ca.gov/anonuevo)

# # #

### **Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center**

Located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz, at 3600 Highway One, Davenport, California 95017  
Open Weekends Noon to 4 pm. Call (831)427-2288.

#### **Wildflower Walk**

**Saturday, May 9 at 10 am**

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**Saturday, May 23 at 10 am**

Meet at Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center. Take your time among the wildflowers of Rancho del Oso's Waddell Valley. Docent and native plant specialist Scott Peden will lead a 4 mile hike to view a variety of wildflowers; there is always something in bloom! Photographers are easily accommodated. Join us for a portion or the entire hike. Bring lunch, water and energy to hike!

**Nature Wander****Sunday, May 10 at 1pm**

Enjoy Mother's Day and find out what is growing and blooming right now in the Waddell Valley. Join docent naturalist Ann Garside on this approximately 1 mile hike, 1.5 hour guided walk. She will share information about the plants of Rancho del Oso as the group walks through the coastal scrubs to one of the last native stands of Monterey Pine left in the world. Meet at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

**Memorial Day Interpretive Hike****Monday, May 25 at 1 pm**

Celebrate this Memorial Day with Rancho Del Oso Naturalist Jeremy Lin in a stimulating and educational hike through the diverse ecosystems of the Waddell Creek Valley. Explore the iconic Monterey Pine forest, marsh habitats, and beach communities on a 4 mile walk with frequent stops to observe and discuss the natural history of our beautiful coast. Bring plenty of water and your curiosity! Meet at Rancho Del Oso Nature and History Center.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Waddell Creek Association. Visit us on the web at [www.ranchodeloso.org](http://www.ranchodeloso.org) or [www.facebook.com/RDOSP](http://www.facebook.com/RDOSP) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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**Butano State Park**

1500 Cloverdale Rd., Pescadero, CA 94060, (650) 879-2040

[www.friendsofbutano.blogspot.com](http://www.friendsofbutano.blogspot.com)

**Wildflower Walk****Sunday, May 10 at 11 am**

Celebrate Mother's Day with a walk along the trails of Butano State Park with Volunteer Naturalist Scott Peden. This is a slowly paced walk with time to discover and identify plants, flowers and animals in the park, and allow for photography if you choose. Bring water, lunch or snacks, and plenty of questions. Meet at the park's Visitor Center near the entrance station. Allow 3 to 4 hours for this walk.

**Pioneers in the Redwoods****Saturday, May 16 from 1 pm**

When California State Parks was starting out, new immigrants to the coast side were making fresh starts for their families. Although little remains of their homesteads, the pioneers affected dramatic changes we can still see today. Visit early pioneers lifestyle, hopes, and struggles as you stroll in the shade of the ancient redwoods. Join Interpretive Specialist Rosanna Petralia for this 2 hour, 1 mile walk back in time. Meet at Visitors Center.

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Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Coastside State Parks Foundation. Visit us on the web at [www.CoastsideStateParks.org](http://www.CoastsideStateParks.org) and [Facebook.com/CoastsideStateParks](https://www.facebook.com/CoastsideStateParks) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

# # #

## **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**

Located Off Hwy 9 in Felton (831) 335-7077

### **Basket Making Workshop: Learn how to make a basket with local pine needles!**

**Saturday, May 9 from 10 am to Noon**

**Saturday, May 16 from 10 am to Noon**

Meet at the Campfire Center in the Henry Cowell Campground, located off Graham Hill Rd. Join docent Cheryl VanDeVeer for a fun family workshop learning how to make a basket from local pine needles. No experience necessary and all materials are supplied. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Program is free, parking fee \$10.

### **Old-Growth Redwood Walks**

**Every Saturday in May at 1 pm**

Meet at the Visitor Center via the Park's main entrance off Hwy 9 in Felton. Experience a guided forest adventure on a docent-led walk through the magnificent old-growth coast redwood grove. This 0.8 mile long stroll begins at 1pm and lasts about 1.5 hours. The trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Program is free, parking fee is \$10. More information is available at (831) 335-7077.

### **Old-Growth Redwood Walks with UCSC Intern**

**Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm**

**Sunday, May 17 at 2 pm**

**Sunday, May 24 at 2 pm**

**Sunday, May 31 at 2pm**

Meet at the Visitor Center via the Park's main entrance off Hwy 9 in Felton. Our Spring Quarter Intern will guide you through the awe-inspiring old-growth coast redwood grove. This 0.8 mile long stroll begins at 2pm and lasts about 1.5 hours. The trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Program is free, parking fee is \$10. More information is available at (831) 335-7077.

### **Mother's Day Redwood Loop Walk**

**Sunday, May 10th at 3 pm**

Did you know that Coast Redwood Trees have extensive family units like you and me? Is there a better day to celebrate family ties than today? Join us for a slow paced, 0.8 mile journey through the Old Growth Redwood Grove. This trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible and is perfect for the whole family! Program is free, parking fee is \$10.

### **Birding for Beginners**

**Saturday, May 23rd at 8 am**

It's time to kick off the summer at the Campground with a leisurely bird walk through the Sandhills. Meet at the Campfire Center located off Graham Hill Road in Felton. Locals and



Campers alike are welcome to join our Docent and Birding Enthusiast on this 2 hour birding stroll throughout our Campground Program is free, \$10 parking fee. Heavy rain cancels.

### **Exploring the Mysterious Sandhills**

**Friday, May 15th at 10 am**

Meet at the Juvenile Hall Parking Lot located at 3650 Graham Hill Road, across from Henry Cowell. Do you know there are 5 endangered species in the Santa Cruz Sandhills? Or about the fragility of this rare and unique ecosystem? Join us for a 3 mile walk around the restoration area of the Henry Cowell Sandhills to find the answers to these questions and more! Dress in layers and bring water to drink. More information is available if you call (831) 335-7077.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation. Visit us on the web at [www.mountainparks.org](http://www.mountainparks.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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